

Undergraduate Committee Meeting

Minutes

December 5, 2019

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Present UCC Members in Edinburg: Lucas Espinoza, Jaime Mancha, Nicolas Pereyra, Jeannean Ryman, Judy Voss

Present UCC Members via Zoom: SJ Kumar, Carlton Nelson

Absent UCC Members: Ahmed Elnahas, Hsuying Ward

Present Office of Academic and Institutional Excellence (OAIE): Laura Saenz, Vice President OAIE

Present: Rosa Peña (OAIE Program Manager)

A. CALL TO ORDER: 9:04am

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES (November 8, 2019 Meeting)

- Motion to Approve: Espinoza; 2nd: Pereyra; Approved unanimously

C. REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

a. College of Sciences

1. School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences

Representative: Chris Gabler

- **Revise Courses: 22**
 - BIOL 3320, BIOL 4402, BIOL 4410, ENVR 4170, ENVR 4323, ENVR 4370, GEOL 3405, GEOL 4170, GEOL 4370, GEOL 4403, GEOL 4404, GEOL 4412, MARS 3320, MARS 3350, MARS 4170, MARS 4199, MARS 4370, MARS 4399, MARS 4401, MARS 4402, MARS 4410, SAFS 4306
- **Delete Courses: 6**
 - BIOL 4102, BIOL 4302, BIOL 4401, ENVR 3405, GEOL 4385, MARS 4470
- **Add Courses: 3**
 - EEMS 4388, MARS 2101, SAFS 4429
- **Revise Programs: 10**
 - BS in Environmental Sciences with Earth and Ocean Sciences Concentration, BS in Environmental Sciences with Environment and Society Concentration, BS in Environmental Sciences with Environmental Biology Concentration, BS in Environmental Sciences with Environmental Chemistry Concentration, BS in Environmental Sciences with Environmental Sciences Concentration, BS in Marine Biology, BS in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems with Agriculture and Ecology Concentration, BS in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems with Business and Policy Concentration, BS in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems with Food and Health Concentration, BS in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems with Food and Society Concentration
- **Blanket Substitutions: 7**
 - **Notes:**
 - Changes are intended to clean up and simplify
 - The biggest changes under “Revise Programs” is the creation of various tracks to help students specialize
 - Removed hidden hours

- Motion to Approve all SEEMS items: Espinoza; 2nd: Guist; Approved Unanimously

2. Biology

Representative: Cristine Lyle, Interim Chair

- **Revise Courses: 37**
 - BIOL 1308, BIOL 1309, BIOL 3301, BIOL 3311, BIOL 3330, BIOL 3345, BIOL 3401, BIOL 3404, BIOL 3408, BIOL 3409, BIOL 3412, BIOL 3413, BIOL 3414, BIOL 3420, BIOL 4199, BIOL 4201, BIOL 4316, BIOL 4319, BIOL 4321, BIOL 4361, BIOL 4362, BIOL 4388, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4392, BIOL 4399, BIOL 4404, BIOL 4405, BIOL 4407, BIOL 4408, BIOL 4409, BIOL 4411, BIOL 4412, BIOL 4414, BIOL 4416, BIOL 4417, BIOL 4418, BIOL 4429
- **Delete Courses: 44**
 - BIOL 1106, BIOL 1107, BIOL 1108, BIOL 1109, BIOL 1301, BIOL 1302, BIOL 1306, BIOL 1307, BIOL 2101, BIOL 2102, BIOL 2121, BIOL 2143, BIOL 2201, BIOL 2301, BIOL 2302, BIOL 2321, BIOL 2343, BIOL 3103, BIOL 3109, BIOL 3111, BIOL 3112, BIOL 3114, BIOL 3303, BIOL 3309, BIOL 3312, BIOL 3314, BIOL 3411, BIOL 4104, BIOL 4109, BIOL 4120, BIOL 4132, BIOL 4150, BIOL 4170, BIOL 4202, BIOL 4301, BIOL 4304, BIOL 4309, BIOL 4332, BIOL 4350, BIOL 4370, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4419, BIOL 4420, BIOL 4422
- **Revise Programs: 4**
 - BS in Biology (Biological Sciences), BS in Biology with Minor Option, BS in Biology with Teacher Certification, BIS in Interdisciplinary Studies with Teacher Certification
 - Notes:
 - Course revisions intended to eliminate hidden prerequisites and redundancies
 - BIOL 4201 is incorrectly listed under “Revise Course” – this course is actually being deleted
 - BS in Biology (Biological Sciences) – degree track students are steered toward this degree plan if they are on a pre-professional track – very science heavy – no minor required – minimal effects from these changes as required courses for degree are still offered
 - BS in Biology w/ Minor Option – minimal effects – required courses for degree still offered with a lot of elective options for minor
 - Most impact of program revisions will be on degrees with teacher certification. Removing BIOL 4400 from both degree plans because there is a lot of overlap between that course and a course in UTEACH program (BIOL 4392). 4392 currently only offered in Edinburg – working on getting faculty in Brownsville to be able to teach the course.
 - Motion to approve all BIOL items: Pereyra; 2nd: Espinoza; Approved Unanimously

3. Physics and Astronomy

Representative: Nikolas Dimakis

- **Revise Courses: 10**
 - ASTR 2301, BENG 4120, BENG 4320, PHYS 3000, PHYS 3330, PHYS 4008, PHYS 4380, PHYS

4392, PSCI 4210, PSCI 4220

- **Delete Courses: 3**
 - PSCI 3310, PHYS 3315, PHYS 4104
- **Revise Programs: 3**
 - BS in Physics with Biophysics/Medical Physics Concentration
 - BS in Physics with Pure and Applied Physics Concentration
 - BS in Physics with Teacher Certification

- Notes:
 - Revisions are to clean up prerequisites
 - Program revisions to align with course revisions and deletions
 - BS in Physics with Teacher Certification being revised to align with UTeach
- Motion to Approve all Physics and Astronomy items: Voss; 2nd: Mancha; Approved unanimously

4. Chemistry

Representative: Hassan Ahmad & Connie Allen

- **Revise Courses: 6**
 - CHEM 3101, CHEM 3103, CHEM 3104, CHEM 3105, CHEM 3304, CHEM 4378
- **Delete Courses: 9**
 - CHEM 1103, CHEM 1104, CHEM 1105, CHEM 1303, CHEM 1304, CHEM 1305, CHEM 1405, CHEM 3307, CHEM 4401
- **Revise Programs: 2**
 - BS in Chemistry, BS in Chemistry with Teacher Certification
- **Blanket Substitutions: 1**
- **Blanket Waiver: 1**

- Notes:
 - Revisions to update prerequisites, number of times a course can be repeated, hidden prerequisites
 - Courses deleted are lecture and their associated labs that were developed and offered as remedial courses for students prior to taking their required CHEM courses. These courses never worked as there was no credit associated with them. CHEM 3307 and 4401 are no longer being taught.
 - Programs are being revised as a result of clean-up of hidden prerequisites. 6 hours had to be eliminated from the degree to accommodate the addition of these prerequisites.
 - Blanket Substitution for CHEM 3201 which was replaced by CHEM 3101 to more accurately reflect the hours that the course meets per week.
 - Waiver for CHEM 4101 which has been deleted from the program. The content is replaced by a new capstone (CHEM 4305). Concerns were raised by Peter-James Ehimika from the Office of Student Academic Success as to how this will be addressed with students who have already received credit for 4101 AND have also taken CHEM 3101 (fewer credit hours than the previous option). Those students would end up short on credit hours for graduation. Mr. Ehimika would like there to be documented protections for the students that are impacted by this change. Dr. Ahmad states that this is a very small number of students and can be dealt with on

an individual basis without a need for a blanket waiver for this particular issue. Dr. Ahmad is committing on record that the Chemistry Department will make the necessary accommodation for these affected students.

- Motion to Approve all CHEM items: Pereyra; 2nd: Espinoza; Approved unanimously

5. School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Representative: Jerzy Mogilski

- **Revise Courses: 14**
 - MATE 3317, MATE 3321, MATH 1350, MATH 3300, MATH 3399, MATH 4192, MATH 4390, STAT 2336, STAT 3301, STAT 3335, STAT 3336, STAT 3351, STAT 4347, STAT 4399
- **Delete Courses: 3**
 - MATE 4319, MATE 4329, STAT 2331
- **Add Courses: 1**
 - MATE 4392
- **Revise Programs: 9**
 - BS in Mathematics with Applied Mathematics Concentration, BS in Mathematics with Economics Concentration, BS in Mathematics with Pure Mathematics Concentration, BS in Mathematics with Science and Engineering Concentration, BS in Mathematics with Statistics Concentration, BS in Mathematics with Teacher Certification (4-8), BS in Mathematics with Teacher Certification (7-12), BS in Statistics, BIS in Interdisciplinary Studies with Teacher Certification
- **Blanket Substitutions: 1**
 - Notes:
 - Revisions address course descriptions, max credit hours allowed, prerequisite clean-up and course title edits
 - Delete courses: MATE 4319 & 4329 are being deleted and are being replaced by MATE 4392
 - Add course: MATE 4392 – this course replaces 4319 & 4329. These two courses have the same content but were designed for the Middle School and High School certifications respectively. There has been a lot of difficulty in these courses making as separate courses so they are being combined for the purpose of improved enrollment.
 - Details of Program Revisions can be found by referring to the submitted documentation uploaded to the UCC Sharepoint site.
 - Clarification was provided that the degree programs contain a graduation requirement of a “C” or better for all MATH courses.
 - Motion to approve all Math and Statistical Sciences items: Mancha; 2nd: Espinoza; Approved unanimously

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Department of Philosophy

- Prerequisites revision of PHIL 3317
- Resulted from a change in UTeach – issue was reconciled not requiring committee vote

2. College of Liberal Arts Course Inventory Changes

- New course numbers suggested by the Registrar’s Office for new courses and course numbers revisions on existing courses. The suggestion was made based on the fact that some of course numbers had

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previously been used so to avoid confusion, changes are recommended.

E. Motion to Adjourn at 9:50am

- **1st: Guist; 2nd: Pereyra; Meeting adjourned**